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04 OCT 02 E752985-1 002934
P01/7700 0.00-0222909.4

1/77

Request for grant of a patent

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The Patent Office

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1. Your reference	100837		
2. Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)	0222909.4		
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)	AstraZeneca AB S-151 85 Sodertalje Sweden		
Patents ADP number (if you know it)	78224448003		
If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation	Sweden		
4. Title of the invention	NOVEL PROCESS AND INTERMEDIATES		
5. Name of your agent (if you have one)	Anne Williams		
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)	AstraZeneca UK Limited Global Intellectual Property Mereside, Alderley Park Macclesfield Cheshire SK10 4TG		
Patents ADP number (if you know it)	8470577001		
6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number	Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / year)
7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application	Number of earlier application		Date of filing (day / month / year)
8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if: a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or c) any named applicant is a corporate body. See note (d))			

Patents Form 1/77

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Continuation sheets of this form

Description	20
Claim(s)	06
Abstract	01

Drawing(s)

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents
(Please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Authorised Signatory

2/10/2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Jennifer C Bennett - 01625 230148

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Notes

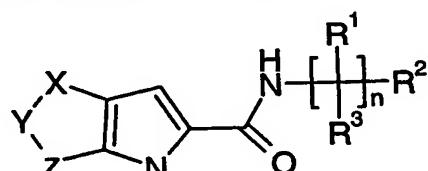
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NOVEL PROCESS AND INTERMEDIATES

The present invention relates to a novel process for preparing intermediates for therapeutically effective compounds, together with novel intermediates for use in the process.

5 Compounds with glycogen phosphorylase activity are described in WO 02/20530.

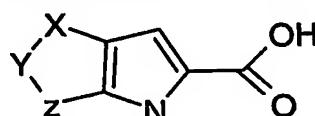
These compounds have a general formula which may be represented as formula (A)



(A)

where X, Y and Z is selected from *inter alia* $-S-CR^4=CR^5$, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently
 10 selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl,
 trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido,
 C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl, C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy,
 N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)carbamoyl,
 N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl,
 15 C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoyl,
 C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino and C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl-N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino;
 n is 0-4, and R¹, R² and R³ are various specified organic groups.

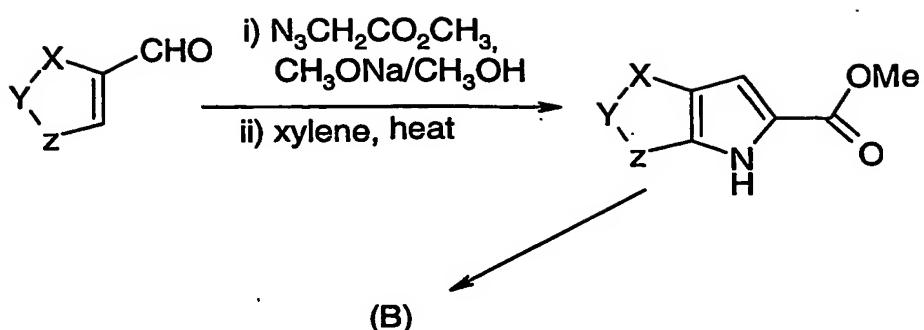
These compounds are generally prepared by reacting an acid of formula (B)



(B)

20 with an appropriate amine. Acids of formula (B) are prepared according to the following scheme:

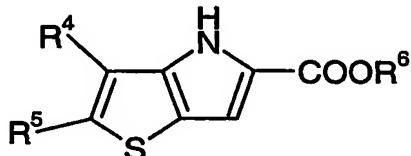
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However, this process is difficult to effect as it may proceed explosively.

The applicants have found an improved process for the production of certain
5 intermediates.

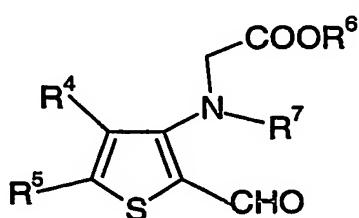
The present invention provides a process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

where R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy,
10 fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl,
mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl,
C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, N-(C-
1-6alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C-
1-6alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N,-(C-
1-6alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino and C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl-N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino;
15 and R⁶ is hydrogen or a protecting group,

which process comprises cyclisation of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

where R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are as defined in relation to formula (I), and R^7 is a nitrogen protecting group, and removing the group R^7 , and thereafter if desired, removing any protecting group R^6 .

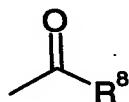
Cyclisation is suitably effected in an organic solvent such as dimethylformamide

5 (DMF), N-methylpyrrolidone or dimethylacetamide, in the presence of a base, preferably a weak base such as an alkali metal carbonate or bicarbonate, such as potassium carbonate. The reaction is suitably carried out at elevated temperatures, for example of from 40 to 100°C, and preferably at about 60°C. Under these conditions, R^7 is generally removed in the same reaction step. Depending upon the nature of the group employed however, it might be 10 necessary to remove R^7 in a subsequent step, for example by acid or base hydrolysis reactions.

Acid hydrolysis reactions may be carried out using conventional methods, and in particular using acids such as trifluoromethanesulphonic acid, acetic acid or hydrochloric acid. Base hydrolysis reactions are suitably effected in the presence of bases, such as alkali metal hydrides or hydroxides, and in particular sodium or potassium hydroxide.

15 Suitable example of protecting groups R^7 are listed in T.W. Green, Protecting Groups in Organic Synthesis, J. Wiley and Sons, 1991 and in particular are those designated as nitrogen protection groups.

Particular examples of protecting groups R^7 are groups of sub-formula (i)



(i)

20

where R^8 is a hydrocarbyl or heterocyclic group, either of which may be optionally substituted.

As used herein, the expression "hydrocarbyl" includes any structure comprising carbon and hydrogen atoms. For example, these may be alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl such as 25 phenyl or napthyl, arylalkyl such as benzyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or cycloalkynyl. Suitably hydrocarbyl groups contain up to 20 and preferably up to 10 carbon atoms.

The term "aryl" refers to aromatic rings such as phenyl or naphthyl.

The term "heterocyclic" includes aromatic or non-aromatic rings, for example containing from 4 to 20, suitably from 5 to 8 ring atoms, at least one of which, and suitably 30 from 1 to 4 of which is a heteroatom such as oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen. They may be monocyclic or have fused rings, such a bicyclic or tricyclic ring systems. Examples of such groups include furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, thiazolyl, tetrazolyl,

oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, piperidinyl, pyrazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, triazinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothienyl or benzofuryl.

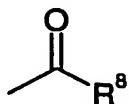
The term "heteroaryl" refers to heterocyclic groups which are aromatic in nature.

5 Thus these may comprises cyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in which one or more carbon atoms have been replaced with a heteroatom. If the heteroaryl group contains more than one heteroatom, the heteroatoms may be the same or different. Examples of heteroaryl groups include pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, thienyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, pyrrolyl, pyranyl, isobenzofuranyl, chromenyl, xanthenyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indolizinyl, triazolyl, pyridazinyl, 10 indazolyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl phthalazinyl, naphthyridinyl, quinoxalinyl, isothiazolyl and benzo[b]thienyl. Preferred heteroaryl groups are five or six membered rings and contain from one to three heteroatoms.

Suitable optional substituents for heterocyclic and hydrocarbyl groups R⁸ include nitro, cyano, halo, oxo, =CR¹³R¹⁴, C(O)_xR¹², OR¹², S(O)_yR¹², NR¹³R¹⁴, C(O)NR¹³R¹⁴, 15 OC(O)NR¹³R¹⁴, =NOR¹², -NR¹²C(O)_xR¹³, -NR¹²CONR¹³R¹⁴, -N=CR¹³R¹⁴, S(O)_yNR¹³R¹⁴ or -NR¹²S(O)_yR¹³ where R¹², R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, or R¹³ and R¹⁴ together form an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains further heteroatoms such as S(O)_y, oxygen and nitrogen, x is an integer of 1 or 2, y is 0 or an integer of 1-3. Hydrocarbyl groups R⁸ may also include 20 heterocyclic substituents, which may themselves be optionally substituted by one or more of the optional substituents listed above. Heterocyclic groups may also be substituted with hydrocarbyl groups which may also be optionally substituted by any of the groups listed above.

Preferably R⁸ is a hydrocarbyl group such as alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl. Most preferably 25 R⁸ is a straight chain alkyl group of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and particularly is a straight chain C₁₋₄alkyl group, such as methyl.

Examples of protecting groups R⁷ are groups of sub-formula (i)



where R⁸ is a straight chain alkyl group of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and particularly is a straight chain C₁₋₄alkyl group, such as methyl.

Particular examples of ester protecting groups R⁶ are any organic groups which can be removed by hydrogenation or hydrolysis. These include optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclic groups. Such groups may be similar to those listed above in relation to R⁷.

5 Suitable example of protecting groups R⁶ are also listed in T.W. Green, Protecting Groups in Organic Synthesis, J. Wiley and Sons, 1991 and in particular are those designated as acid protecting groups.

In particular R⁶ is a hydrocarbyl group such as C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, aryl such as phenyl, or arylalkyl such as benzyl.

10 Conversion of a protecting group R⁶ to hydrogen is suitably effected using conventional methods, for example as described in WO 02/20530. In particular, the compound is reacted with a base such as lithium hydroxide, in an organic solvent such as methanol, at temperatures of from 20-80°C, and conveniently at the reflux temperature of the solvent.

15 Particular examples of groups R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, ureido, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl and C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy.

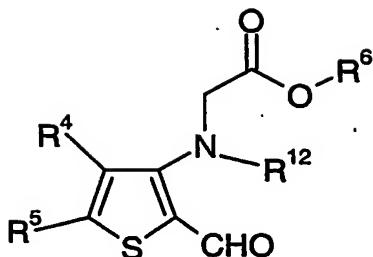
Suitably R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, 20 fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, and C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy.

Preferably R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen and halogen such as chlorine, fluorine and bromine, and in particular chlorine.

25 Most preferably R⁴ and R⁵ are halogen such as chlorine.

Compounds of formula (II) are suitably prepared by reacting a compound of formula (III)

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(III)

where R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are as defined in relation to formula (I), and R^{12} is a directing nitrogen protecting group, with a compound of formula (IV)

5

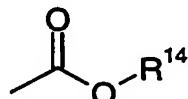


(IV)

where R^7 is as defined above, under acidic condition, for example in a solvent comprising an organic acid, such as acetic acid. Elevated temperatures for example of from 80-150°C and preferably from 110-130°C are employed.

10 Directing nitrogen protecting groups are groups which may act as nitrogen protecting groups, but are sufficiently bulky in nature to prevent any substitution on the nitrogen atom, or the ring atom to which it is attached. Reactions, for example deprotonation by an organolithium reagent, are thereby directed to the adjacent position on the ring. Thus particular examples of nitrogen directing groups R^{12} are groups of sub-formula (ii)

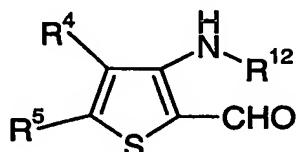
15



(ii)

where R^{14} is a branched C_{4-10} alkyl group such as tertiary butyl, or an aryl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl group such as benzyl.

20 Compounds of formula (III) are suitably prepared by reacting a compound of formula (V)



(V)

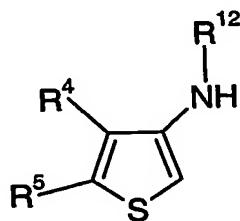
where R^4 and R^5 are as defined above in relation to formula (I) and R^{12} is as defined in relation to formula (III), with a compound of formula (VI),



(VI)

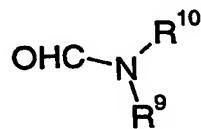
5 where L is a leaving group such as halogen and in particular bromine. The reaction is suitably effected in the presence of a base such as an alkali metal carbonate, bicarbonate, hydroxide or alkoxide, for instance potassium bicarbonate in an organic solvent such as dimethylformamide. The reaction may be conducted at elevated temperatures, for example of from 40 to 100°C, preferably from 50 to 70°C and most preferably at about 60°C.

10 Compounds of formula (V) are suitably prepared by a directed ortho metallation reaction (J. Org. Chem. 20001, 66, 3662-3670). In this case, the compound of formula (V) is prepared by reacting a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

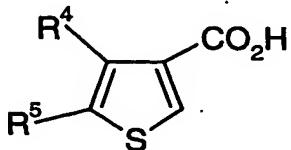
where R^4 and R^5 are as defined in relation to formula (I) and R^{12} is as defined in relation to formula (III), with a lithiating agent, such as N-butyl lithium, and subsequently with a formylating agent, such as a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

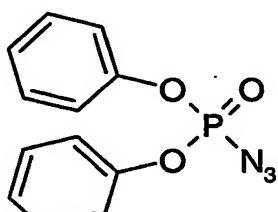
where R^9 and R^{10} are alkyl groups and in particular lower alkyl groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as methyl. Reaction with the lithiating agent is suitably effected in an organic solvent such as tetrahydrofuran (THF), at low temperatures for example of from -100° to 0°C and preferably from -80° to -10°C. The subsequent addition of the formylating agent is suitably also effected at low temperatures, but in this case, temperatures of from -20° to 0°C are adequate.

Compounds of formula (VII) are suitably prepared by subjecting a compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

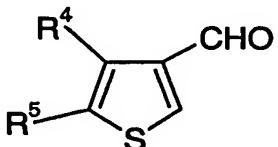
where R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined above in relation to formula (I), to a Curtius rearrangement reaction, in the presence of an alcohol of formula R¹⁴OH where R¹⁴ is as defined in relation to formula (ii). In this reaction, the compound of formula (IX) is reacted with diphenylphosphorylazide of formula (X)



(X)

to convert the acid group to a carbonyl azide, which is thermally decomposed to the desired amide via an isocyanate. Suitable reaction conditions are illustrated hereinafter. The reaction is suitably effected in the presence of a base such as triethylamine.

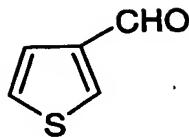
Compounds of formula (IX) are suitably prepared by oxidation of a compound of formula (XI)



(XI)

where R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined in relation to formula (I) for example using an oxidising agent such as potassium permanganate in the presence of a base such as an alkali metal hydroxide such as sodium hydroxide. The reaction is suitably effected in an aqueous solvent at moderate temperatures for example of from 10 to 80°C and preferably at about 40°C.

Compounds of formula (XI) where R⁴ and R⁵ are halogen can be prepared by halogenation of compounds of formula (XII)



(XII)

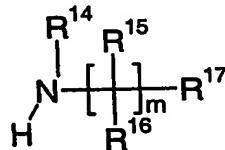
Suitably this is effected using a halogenating agent such as chlorine and aluminium trichloride, in an organic solvent such as dichloromethane.

Compounds of formula (II), (III), (V) and (VII) are novel and form further aspects of 5 the invention.

Compounds of formula (IV), (VI), (VIII), (IX), (X), (XI) and (XII) are known compounds or they can be prepared from known compounds by conventional methods.

Compounds of formula (I) are suitably used in the production of pharmaceutical compounds and in particular, compounds with glycogen phosphorylase activity as described 10 in WO 02/20530 and EP-A-1088824.

Thus in a further aspect, the invention provides a method as described above, for the production of a compound of formula (I) where R⁶ is hydrogen, and further comprising reacting the compound of formula (I) obtained with an amine of formula (XIII),



(XIII)

15 where R¹⁴ is selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₈alkyl,
 m is an integer of from 0 to 4,
 each R¹⁵ is the same or different and is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl,
 20 C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl, C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl-N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈cycloalkylC₁₋₆alkyl, aryl, 25 arylC₁₋₆alkyl, heterocyclic group and (heterocyclic group)C₁₋₆alkyl; wherein R¹ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from P and wherein if said

heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R;

each R¹⁶ is the same or different and is selected from is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R¹⁷ is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl,

5 difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl, C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)-N-(C₁₋₆alkoxy)carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonylamino,

10 N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, sulphamoylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoylamino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoylamino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl-N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino and a group -E-F-G-H;

wherein E and G are independently selected from a direct bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-,

15 -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)-, -NR^a-, -NR^aC(O)-, -C(O)NR^a-, -SO₂NR^a-, -NR^aSO₂-, -NR^aC(O)NR^b-, -OC(O)NR^a-, -NR^aC(O)O-, -NR^aSO₂NR^b-, -SO₂NR^aC(O)- and -C(O)NR^aSO₂-, wherein R^a and R^b are independently selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl which is optionally substituted by a group V;

F is C₁₋₆alkylene optionally substituted by one or more Q or a direct bond;

20 H is selected from aryl, C₃₋₈cycloalkyl and heterocyclic group; wherein H may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from S and wherein if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from T;

n is selected from 0-4; wherein the values of R¹ may be the same or different; and

25 wherein the values of R³ may be the same or different;

P, S and Q are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl, C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)carbamoyl, 30 N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂carbamoyl, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)-N-(C₁₋₆alkoxy)carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl-N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclic group; wherein

P, S and Q may be optionally and independently substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from V and wherein if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from U;

V is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl,

5 amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, acetylamino, N-methylcarbamoyl, N-ethylcarbamoyl, N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl, N,N-diethylcarbamoyl, N-methyl-N-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl, ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,

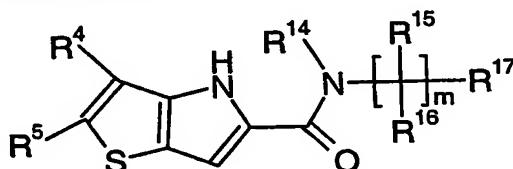
10 N-methylsulphamoyl, N-ethylsulphamoyl, N,N-dimethylsulphamoyl, N,N-diethylsulphamoyl, N-methyl-N-ethylsulphamoyl, morpholino, morpholinocarbonyl, N- benzylcarbamoyl, and 4-hydroxypiperidinocarbonyl;

R, T and U are independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl,

C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl,

15 N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl wherein R, T and U may be optionally and independently substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from V;

to produce a compound of formula (XIV)



(XIV)

20

where R⁴, R⁵, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷ and m are as defined above, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.

Particular examples of compounds of formula (XIV) are compounds where R¹⁴ is hydrogen, as described in WO 02/20530. For instance, suitable compounds of formula (XII) 25 are compounds where R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined above, R¹⁴ is hydrogen, m is 0 and R¹⁷ is a group -E-F-G-H;

wherein E, F and G are each a direct bond;

H is a C₃₋₁₂cycloalkyl which is optionally fused to a benz ring wherein H may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups S which are independently selected 30 from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy,

carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl, C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂carbamoyl, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)-N-(C₁₋₆alkoxy)carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2,

5 C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl-N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclic groups; wherein S may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from V;

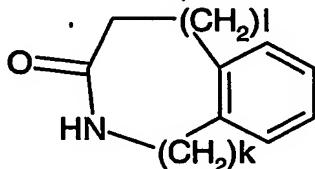
V is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl,

10 amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, acetylamino, N-methylcarbamoyl, N-ethylcarbamoyl, N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl, N,N-diethylcarbamoyl, N-methyl-N-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl, ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,

15 N-methylsulphamoyl, N-ethylsulphamoyl, N,N-dimethylsulphamoyl, N,N-diethylsulphamoyl, N-methyl-N-ethylsulphamoyl, morpholino, morpholinocarbonyl, N-benzylcarbamoyl, and 4-hydroxypiperidinocarbonyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Other suitable compounds of formula (XIV) are compounds where R⁴ and R⁵ are as

20 defined above, R¹⁴ is hydrogen, m is 0, and R¹⁷ is a group -E-F-G-H; wherein E, F and G are each a direct bond; and H is a cyclic amide of formula



in which the point of attachment is the carbon atom adjacent to the carbonyl group, k is 0, 1 or 25 2 and l is 0, 1 or 2 such that the sum of k and l is 1, 2 or 3 and wherein one of the carbon atoms governed by k or l may be replaced by sulphur and wherein H is optionally substituted on the carbon atom adjacent to the aromatic ring by a group selected from S and may be independently optionally substituted on nitrogen by a group selected from T;

S is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy,

30 amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl,

C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂amino,
 C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂carbamoyl,
 $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkoxy)carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2,
 C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl,
5 $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino,
 C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclic group; wherein
S may be optionally and independently substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected
from V and wherein if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be
optionally substituted by a group selected from U;
10 T and U are independently selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl,
 C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, $N-(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, phenyl,
benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl wherein R, T and U may be
optionally and independently substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from V;
V is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl,
15 amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl,
acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N -methyl- N -ethylamino,
acetylamino, N -methylcarbamoyl, N -ethylcarbamoyl, N,N -dimethylcarbamoyl,
 N,N -diethylcarbamoyl, N -methyl- N -ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl,
ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,
20 N -methylsulphamoyl, N -ethylsulphamoyl, N,N -dimethylsulphamoyl, N,N -diethylsulphamoyl,
 N -methyl- N -ethylsulphamoyl, morpholino, morpholinocarbonyl, N -benzylcarbamoyl and
4-hydroxypiperidinocarbonyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.
Yet further examples of compounds of formula (XIV) are compounds where R^{14} is
25 hydrogen, and wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo or
 C_{1-6} alkyl.
m is 1; R^{15} is hydrogen or aryl C_{1-6} alkyl, R^{16} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, and R^{17} is selected from
a group -E-F-G-H; wherein E, F and G are each a direct bond;
H is an unsaturated five membered heterocyclic group containing at least one nitrogen
30 atom and one or two ring atoms selected from oxygen and sulphur and wherein H may be
optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups S which are independently selected
from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy,
carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy,

C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂amino,
 C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂carbamoyl,
 $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkoxy)carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2,
 C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl,
5 $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino,
 C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl and aryl groups;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

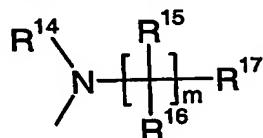
Other particular examples include compounds of formula (XIV) where R^{14} is hydrogen, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo or C_{1-6} alkyl.

10 m is 0; and R^{17} is a group -E-F-G-H;
wherein E is a direct bond;
F is methylene;
wherein G is -C(O)NR^a-, wherein R^a is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl which is optionally substituted by a group V ;

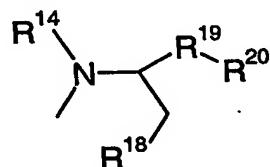
15 H is aryl which may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from S;
S is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂amino,
20 C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂carbamoyl, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkoxy)carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino,
 C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclic group; wherein
25 S may be optionally and independently substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from V ;
V is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N -methyl- N -ethylamino,
30 acetylamino, N -methylcarbamoyl, N -ethylcarbamoyl, N,N -dimethylcarbamoyl, N,N -diethylcarbamoyl, N -methyl- N -ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,

N-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl, morpholino, morpholinocarbonyl, *N*-benzylcarbamoyl, and 4-hydroxypiperidinocarbonyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5 Other particular compounds of formula (XIV) are compounds where the group

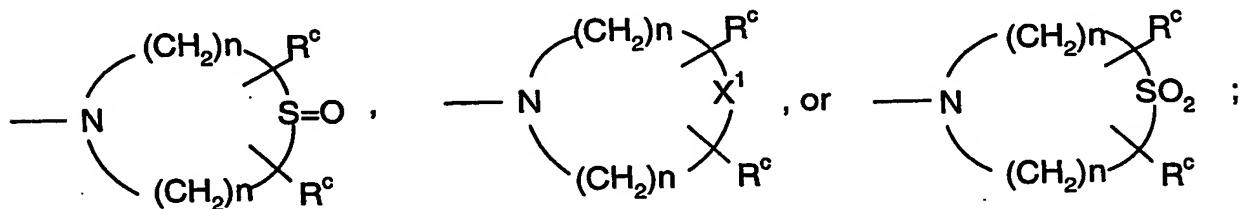


is a group of sub-formula (ii)



(ii)

10 where R^{14} is as defined above, R^{18} is aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, or substituted heteroaryl, R^{19} is a bond or a group $-CH(OH)-$, and R^{20} is a group $-C(=O)-A$ or a group $-CH(OH)-C(=O)-A$ in which A is NR^dR^d , $-NR^aCH_2CH_2OR^a$, or



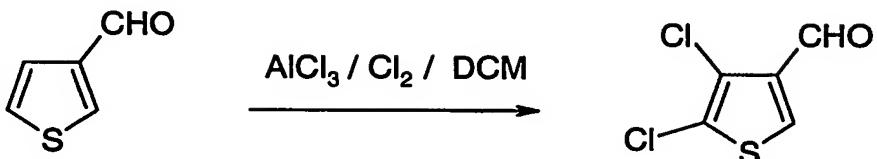
15 each R^a and R^b is independently hydrogen or $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl; each R^d is independently hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, or substituted heteroaryl; each R^c is independently hydrogen, $-C(=O)OR^a$, $-OR^a$, $-SR^a$, or $-NR^aR^a$; and each n is independently 1-3, and

20 X^1 is NR^a , $-CH_2-$, O or S . Examples of substituents for aryl and heteroaryl groups Q and R^d include halogen, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, C_1-C_8 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, amino, mono or di- $(C_1-C_8$ alkyl)amino, nitro, cyano, carboxy or C_1-C_8 alkyl esters thereof.

The invention will now be particularly described by way of example.

Example 1

5 Step 1



Thiophene-3-carbaldehyde (11.2g, 0.1M) was dissolved in dichloromethane (400ml.) and cooled to 5°C. Aluminium chloride (33.25g, 0.25M) was then added in portions so that

10 the temperature did not rise above 10°C. After the addition was complete the temperature was allowed to rise to 15°C and chlorine gas slowly bubbled into the reaction mixture. The temperature was maintained between 15 and 20°C with ice/water cooling and the reaction followed by HPLC until the mixture contained >70% of 4,5-dichlorothiophene-3-carbaldehyde.

15 The reaction mixture was poured into ice water (1000 ml.) and the organic layer separated. The aqueous was extracted with further portions of dichloromethane (3x200ml) and the combined extracts washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate, water and brine, dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to give a dark oil, which crystallised on standing. Purification by recrystallisation from hexane gave

20 4,5-dichlorothiophene-3-carbaldehyde as light brown needles (14g, 78%). ^1H NMR (300MHz d^6 -DMSO) 9.9 (s,1H), 8.0 (s,1H)

Step 2

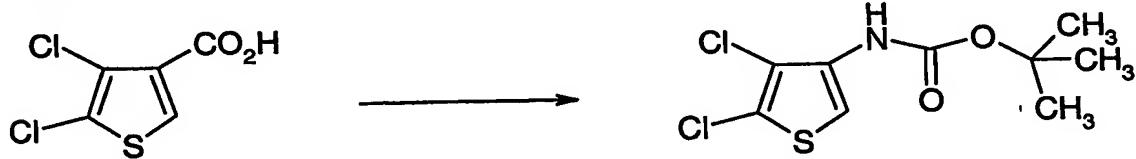


25 NaOH (0.47g) was dissolved in H_2O (8ml) and 4,5-dichlorothiophene-3-carbaldehyde from step 1 (1.42g) added in one portion giving a suspension. KMnO_4 (1.24g) was added portionwise over approximately 25 minutes whilst heating the reaction suspension in a water bath at 40°C. After complete addition the water bath temperature was raised to 50°C for a further 15 minutes stirring.

Without cooling the brown precipitate was filtered off (nylon filter) and washed with H₂O. The resultant pale yellow clear solution was acidified with concentrated aqueous hydrochloric acid to give a thick white suspension. The white solid was filtered off and washed with H₂O. The solid was dissolved in a mixture of ethyl acetate and dichloromethane, 5 dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to leave the desired product, 4,5-dichlorothiophene-3-carboxylic acid as a white solid (1.34g). Further product was extracted from the aqueous mother liquors using dichloromethane. After drying over Na₂SO₄, filtration and evaporation under reduced pressure, an additional 0.19g of the desired 4,5-dichlorothiophene-3-carboxylic acid

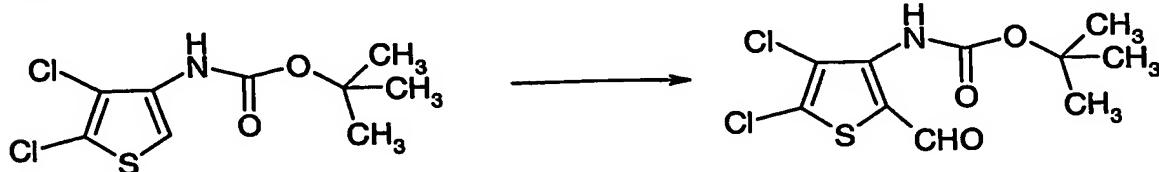
10 was obtained as a white solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz d⁶-DMSO) 13.23 (br s, 1H), 8.33 (s, 1H); ES⁺ 195.12

Step 3



15 Under argon 4,5-dichlorothiophene-3-carboxylic acid (10.91g) was dissolved in warm dry tertiary butanol (60ml) and triethylamine (7.76ml) added followed by diphenylphosphoryl azide (DPPA) (11.99ml). The mixture was then heated slowly to reflux and refluxed for about 12 hours. On cooling the reaction mixture was poured into H₂O (~300ml). The resultant dark suspension was filtered, and the solid was washed with H₂O then dried under 20 suction to a brown powder. This was dissolved in diethyl ether and the solution dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated. Chromatography on silica gel (eluent gradient – isohexane to CH₂Cl₂) gave *tert*-butyl (4,5-dichloro-3-thienyl)carbamate as a pale yellow solid. Yield 12.05g (78%). ¹H NMR (300MHz CDCl₃) 7.30 (br s, 1H), 6.72 (br s, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H)

25 Step 4



The product from step 3 (445mg) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (THF) under an argon atmosphere, and cooled in a dry ice /acetone bath. n-Butyl lithium (1.6M in hexane)

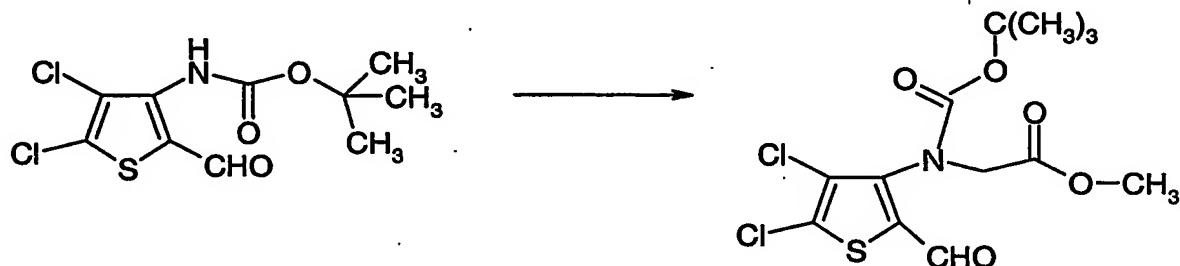
(2.5ml) was added dropwise and the mixture left at this temperature for 35 minutes then allowed to warm to -10°C (external bath temperature) over ~ 15 minutes.

Dimethylformamide (0.25ml) was then added dropwise and the temperature held at 10°C for 30 minutes, before being allowed to warm to room temperature. It was kept at this

5 temperature with stirring overnight.

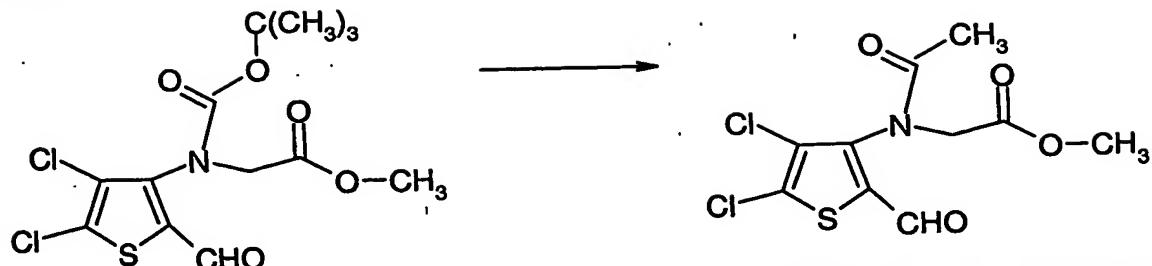
Saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution was then added, and the mixture then partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to give a pale brown solid. Chromatography on silica gel (eluent gradient – isohexane to CH₂Cl₂) gave *tert*-butyl (4,5-dichloro-2-formyl-3-thienyl)carbamate 10 as a pale yellow solid. Yield 0.31g (63%). ¹H NMR (300MHz CDCl₃) 10.01 (s, 1H), 6.83 (br s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H); ES⁻ 294.07

Step 5



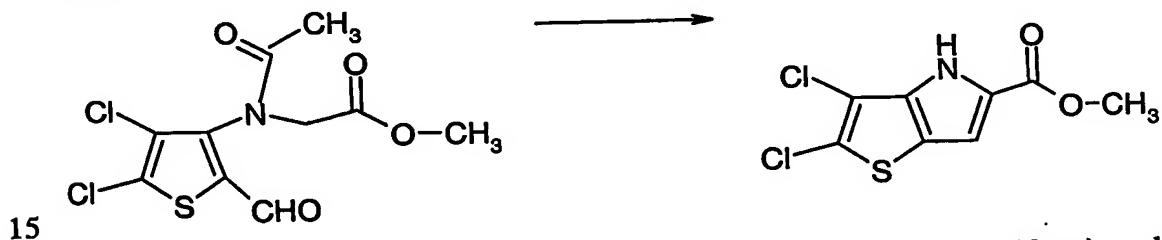
The product from step 4 (300mg) was dissolved in dry DMF (2ml) under an argon 15 atmosphere, and KHCO₃ (102mg) was added followed by methyl bromoacetate (96μl). The mixture was then heated to 60°C, for 3½ hours. After stirring overnight at room temperature, further KHCO₃ (51mg) and methyl bromoacetate (48μl) were added and the mixture heated at 60°C for a further 1 hour 30 minutes.

The reaction mixture was then partitioned between ethylacetate and H₂O. The organic 20 layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to a clear, orange oil. Chromatography on silica gel (eluent gradient – isohexane to CH₂Cl₂ then to Et₂O) gave methyl *N*-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-*N*-(4,5-dichloro-2-formyl-3-thienyl)glycinate as a clear yellow oil (0.42g). ¹H NMR (300MHz CDCl₃) (exists as 2:1 mixture of rotamers) 10.13 (s, 1H), 4.78 (d, 1H), 3.87 (d, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 9H) (major rotamer); 10.05 (s, 1H), 4.58 (d, 1H), 3.87 (d, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.50 (s, 9H) (minor rotamer)

Step 6

Under an argon atmosphere, the product of step 5 (746mg) was dissolved in acetic acid (5ml) and acetic anhydride (0.41ml) added. After heating for 21 hours at 120°C, the 5 reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure.

The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. Chromatography on silica gel (eluent gradient – isohexane to CH₂Cl₂ then to Et₂O: 10 CH₂Cl₂ (3:97)) gave the methyl *N*-acetyl-*N*-(4,5-dichloro-2-formyl-3-thienyl)glycinate as a clear yellow oil (34mg). ¹H NMR (300MHz CDCl₃) 10.22 (s, 1H), 5.00 (d, 1H), 3.75 (d, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H)

Step 7

15 Once again under an argon atmosphere, the product of step 6 (103mg) and K₂CO₃ (70mg) were mixed together and dry DMF (1ml) added. The suspension quickly went blood red. After 2 hrs at room temperature, the temperature was raised to 60°C for 165 minutes. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and stirred overnight.

20 The product was then worked-up using procedures as described in step 6, and the organic phase dried over Na₂SO₄. Chromatography on silica gel (eluent gradient – isohexane to CH₂Cl₂ then to Et₂O) gave methyl 2,3-dichloro-4*H*-thieno[3,2-*b*]pyrrole-5-carboxylate as a white solid (37mg)(45%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz d⁶-DMSO) 12.86 (br s, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ES⁻ 248.04

Step 8

The ester from step 7 (1.03g) was suspended in methanol (7.5ml) and heated to 60°C.

A solution of LiOH (346mg, 2 eq) in H₂O was added dropwise giving an orange suspension.

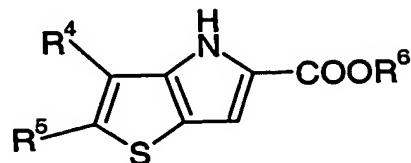
5 After complete addition, the suspension was heated to reflux for 1 hour, whereupon it had become a clear orange solution. The reaction mixture was concentrated to almost dryness under reduced pressure, then acidified with 2M aqueous hydrochloric acid, and extracted with ethyl acetate (twice). The ethyl acetate layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. Any possible traces of MeOH was removed by azeotroping with

10 toluene to leave the desired 2,3-dichloro-4H-thieno[3,2-b]pyrrole-5-carboxylic acid as an off white solid (0.98g, 100%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz d⁶-DMSO) 12.79 (br s, 1H), 12.63 (br s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 3.86; ES⁺ 234.21

Claims

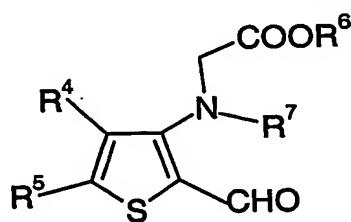
1. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

where R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, 10 mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)2amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)2carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl, $N, N,-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)2sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino and C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino; 15 and R^6 is hydrogen or a protecting group,

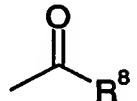
which process comprises cyclisation of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

where R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are as defined in relation to formula (I), and R^7 is a nitrogen protecting group, and removing the group R^7 , and thereafter if desired, removing any protecting group 20 R^6 .

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein R^7 is a group of sub-formula (i)



(i)

where R^8 is a straight chain alkyl group of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

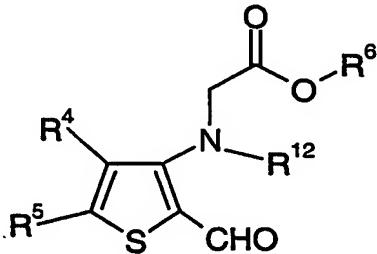
5

3. A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl and C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy.

10

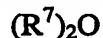
4. A compound of formula (II) as defined in claim 1.

5. A process for preparing a compound according to claim 4 which comprises reacting a compound of formula (III)



(III)

15 where R^4 and R^5 are as defined in relation to formula (I), and R^{12} is a directing nitrogen protecting group, with a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

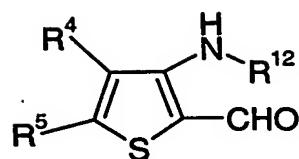
20

where R^7 is as defined above, under acidic conditions.

6. A compound of formula (III) as defined in claim 5.

25 7. A process for preparing a compound according to claim 6 which comprises reacting a compound of formula (V)

- 23 -



(V)

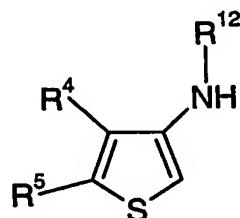
where R^4 and R^5 are as defined above in claim 1 and R^{12} is as defined in relation to formula (III), with a compound of formula (VI)



where L is a leaving group.

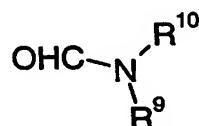
8. A compound of formula (V) as defined in claim 7.

10 9. A process for preparing a compound according to claim 8 which comprises reacting a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

where R^4 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1 and R^{12} is as defined in relation to formula (III),
15 with a lithiating agent, such as N-butyl lithium, and subsequently with a formylating agent, such as a compound of formula (VIII)

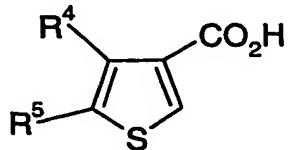


(VIII)

where R^9 and R^{10} are alkyl groups and in particular lower alkyl groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as methyl.

20 10. A compound of formula (VII) as defined in claim 9.

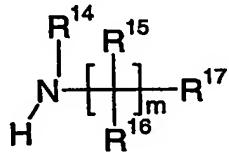
11. A process for preparing a compound according to claim 10 which comprises subjecting a compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

5 where R^4 and R^5 are as defined above in relation to formula (I), to a Curtius rearrangement reaction, in the presence of an alcohol of formula $R^{12}OH$ where R^{12} is as defined in claim 5.

12. A method according to claim 1, for the production of a compound of formula (I) where R^6 is hydrogen, wherein the method further comprises the step of reacting the 10 compound of formula (I) obtained with an amine of formula (XIII),



(XIII)

where R^{14} is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-8} alkyl,

m is an integer of from 0 to 4,

15 each R^{15} is the same or different and is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl,

20 $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino,

C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-6} alkyl, heterocyclic group and (heterocyclic group) C_{1-6} alkyl; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from P and wherein if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a

25 group selected from R;

each R^{16} is the same or different and is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino,

5 $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)₂carbamoyl, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkoxy)carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, sulphamoylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoylamino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂sulphamoylamino, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino and a group

10 -E-F-G-H;

wherein E and G are independently selected from a direct bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)-, -NR^a-, -NR^aC(O)-, -C(O)NR^a-, -SO₂NR^a-, -NR^aSO₂-, -NR^aC(O)NR^b-, -OC(O)NR^a-, -NR^aC(O)O-, -NR^aSO₂NR^b-, -SO₂NR^aC(O)- and -C(O)NR^aSO₂-, wherein R^a and R^b are independently selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl

15 which is optionally substituted by a group V;

F is C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted by one or more Q or a direct bond;

H is selected from aryl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl and heterocyclic group; wherein H may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from S and wherein if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a

20 group selected from T;

n is selected from 0-4; wherein the values of R¹ may be the same or different; and wherein the values of R³ may be the same or different;

P, S and Q are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido,

25 C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)carbamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂carbamoyl, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkoxy)carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl, $N,N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino,

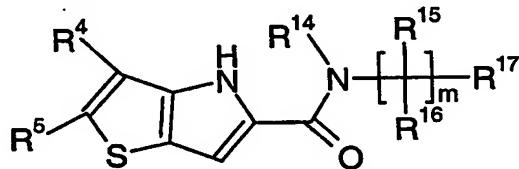
30 C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl- $N-(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclic group; wherein P, S and Q may be optionally and independently substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from V and wherein if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from U;

V is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, acetylamino, N-methylcarbamoyl, N-ethylcarbamoyl, N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl,

5 N,N-diethylcarbamoyl, N-methyl-N-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, N-methylsulphamoyl, N-ethylsulphamoyl, N,N-dimethylsulphamoyl, N,N-diethylsulphamoyl, N-methyl-N-ethylsulphamoyl, morpholino, morpholinocarbonyl, N- benzylcarbamoyl, and 4-hydroxypiperidinocarbonyl;

10 R, T and U are independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl wherein R, T and U may be optionally and independently substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from V;

15 to produce a compound of formula (XIV)

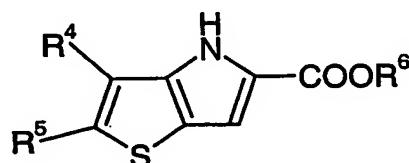


(XIV)

where R⁴, R⁵, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷ and m are as defined above, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.

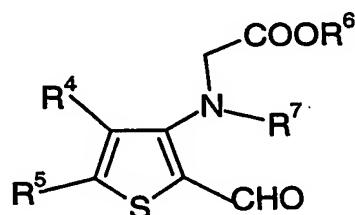
A B S T R A C TNOVEL PROCESS AND INTERMEDIATES

5 A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

10 where R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined in the specification; and R⁶ is hydrogen or a protecting group,
 which process comprises cyclisation of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

where R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are as defined in relation to formula (I), and R⁷ is a nitrogen protecting
 15 group, and removing the group R⁷, and thereafter if desired, removing any protecting group
 R⁶.

Novel intermediates and the use of these in the formation of pharmaceutical
 compounds is also described and claimed.

PCT Application

GB0304211

